

her reputation precedes her. The American Bar Association's nonpartisan standing committee on the Federal Judiciary unanimously rated Ms. Halligan "well-qualified" to serve on the D.C. Circuit, the highest possible rating. Messages of support for her nomination have poured in from hundreds of female law school deans and professors, former U.S. Supreme Court clerks and current judges, preeminent lawyers across the political spectrum from Ronald Reagan's solicitor general to the legendary D.A. Robert Morgenthau, and law enforcement associations. Put simply, this woman has proven herself to be worthy of our vote and the public's trust.

But there is another reason we must confirm Ms. Halligan today: the unacceptable delay in her nomination is causing a growing gap in the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals. Ms. Halligan was first nominated by President Obama three years ago. Now, this important court in our country—often called "the second most important court in our land" because of the high profile, complex cases it handles—is one-third vacant. The caseload for the existing judges is growing, and justice is being held up.

Finally, if confirmed, Caitlin Halligan would become only the sixth female judge in the D.C. Circuit's 120-year history, a change I would certainly welcome for this important court. We need to continue building on the important legacy of diversity and inclusion that President Obama has established by nominating record numbers of women to the Federal bench. Thanks to his leadership, women today make up roughly 30 percent of the Federal judgeships at every level for the first time in history: in trial courts, courts of appeal, and the Supreme Court. This diversity bolsters the legitimacy of our court system, and the public's confidence in it. We should continue this progress by confirming Ms. Halligan.

For all these reasons, I look forward to voting for Caitlin Halligan's nomination to the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, and I urge my colleagues to do the same. Let's fulfill our constitutional obligation to keep our judicial system working efficiently and fairly for the American people.

I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DONNELLY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, and

38, with the exception of Calendar No. 28 Colonel Scott C. Long, and all nominations placed on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, and Navy; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that President Obama be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be major general

Brigadier General Arnold W. Bunch, Jr.
Brigadier General Theresa C. Carter
Brigadier General Sandra E. Finan
Brigadier General Jeffrey L. Harrigan
Brigadier General Timothy J. Leahy
Brigadier General Gregory J. Lengyel
Brigadier General Lee K. Levy, II
Brigadier General James F. Martin, Jr.
Brigadier General Jerry P. Martinez
Brigadier General Paul H. McGillicuddy
Brigadier General Robert D. McMurry, Jr.
Brigadier General Edward M. Minahan
Brigadier General Mark C. Nowland
Brigadier General Terrence J. O'Shaughnessy

Brigadier General Michael T. Plehn
Brigadier General Margaret B. Poore
Brigadier General James N. Post, III
Brigadier General Steven M. Shepro
Brigadier General David D. Thompson
Brigadier General Scott A. Vander Hamm
Brigadier General Marshall B. Webb
Brigadier General Burke E. Wilson
Brigadier General Scott J. Zobrist

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Colonel Nina M. Armagno
Colonel Sam C. Barrett
Colonel Steven L. Basham
Colonel Ronald D. Buckley
Colonel Carl A. Buhler
Colonel John A. Cherrey
Colonel James C. Dawkins, Jr.
Colonel Patrick J. Doherty
Colonel Dawn M. Dunlop
Colonel Thomas L. Gibson
Colonel James B. Hecker
Colonel Patrick C. Higby
Colonel Mark K. Johnson
Colonel Brian M. Killough
Colonel Robert D. LaBrutta
Colonel Russell L. Mack
Colonel Patrick X. Mordente
Colonel Shaun Q. Morris
Colonel Paul D. Nelson
Colonel John M. Pletcher
Colonel Duke Z. Richardson
Colonel Brian S. Robinson
Colonel Barre R. Seguin
Colonel John S. Shapland
Colonel Robert J. Skinner
Colonel James C. Slife
Colonel Dirk D. Smith
Colonel Jeffrey B. Taliaferro
Colonel Jon T. Thomas
Colonel Glen D. VanHerck
Colonel Stephen N. Whiting
Colonel John M. Wood

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Robin Rand

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. John M. Bednarek

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

General Lloyd J. Austin, III

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lieutenant General Robert L. Caslen, Jr.

The following named officer for appointment as the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army and appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 3034:

To be general

Lt. Gen. John F. Campbell

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

to be general

Lt. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Gen. David M. Rodriguez

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Paul W. Brier

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Admiral William H. Hilarides

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Joseph P. Aucoin

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN142 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning ALAN S. FINE, and ending PAUL R. NEWBOLD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 7, 2013.

IN THE ARMY

PN146 ARMY nomination of Jasmine T. N. Daniels, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 7, 2013.

PN147 ARMY nomination of Paul W. Roecker, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 7, 2013.

PN148 ARMY nominations (8) beginning JAMES B. BARKLEY, and ending MICHAEL E. SPRAGGINS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 7, 2013.

PN149 ARMY nomination of Lena M. Fabian, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 7, 2013.

PN150 ARMY nominations (3) beginning YIMING A. CHING, and ending JOSEPH F. GOODMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 7, 2013.

PN151 ARMY nominations (58) beginning WILLIAM C. ALLEY, and ending D010916, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 7, 2013.

PN152 ARMY nominations (2) beginning ALISON R. HUPPMAN, and ending ALLEGRA E. LOBELL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 7, 2013.

PN153 ARMY nominations (4) beginning THOMAS M. GREGO, and ending GEORGE J. ZECKLER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 7, 2013.

IN THE NAVY

PN154 NAVY nominations (4) beginning ANDREW W. DELEY, and ending GREGORY E. RINGLER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 7, 2013.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will return to legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that we now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO DAWN CLARK NETSCH

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this morning we received news in Chicago that Dawn Clark Netsch has passed away. She died from complications from Lou Gehrig's disease at the age of 86. It was a surprise to lose her this quickly, although all of us knew she was struggling with this terrible disease.

When the history of her contribution to Illinois is written, it will undoubtedly note the obvious: She had worked in Illinois government since the 1950s, under then-Governor Stevenson. She was a law professor at Northwestern University Law School. She was elected State senator in the 1970s. She was elected our State's comptroller after that, and she had an ill-fated run for Governor.

If that is all it says, though, it will miss the most important part of her life because, you see, Dawn Clark Netsch was an iconic, historic force in our State. More than any person in Illinois history, Dawn Clark Netsch created the modern era of women in Illinois political leadership. As always, those who were charged with opening the doors of opportunity have to come to that task extraordinarily gifted, determined, and patient. Dawn Netsch was all of these and more.

Early in my life, fresh out of law school, I was a lawyer working in the Illinois State Senate, and I saw firsthand the talents of this new senator, Dawn Clark Netsch. Her political base was the Lakeshore liberal base in Chicago—the group who was always at war with the Chicago machine and proud of it. She was elected from that base but then surprised most everyone when she came to Springfield and struck up a friendship, a genuine friendship, in the constitutional convention first and then in the State Senate with a young State senator named Richard M. Daley, son of Mayor Daley. Dawn Netsch proved that a politician can be both principled and effective and civil. Her ill-fated run for Governor lacked the political polish of many winning campaigns, but her thoughtfulness, her candor, and her blunt honesty about the challenges Illinois faced will always be remembered.

The Illinois political scene will not be the same without that pool-shooting Sox fan with a cigarette holder, but generations of Illinois women can thank the indomitable force of Dawn Clark Netsch for blazing their path.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM J. RISSEL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a Kentuckian who has both faithfully served his community and the men and women of the U.S. Army for more than two decades. I speak of Mr. William J. Rissel, the president and chief executive officer of the Fort Knox Federal Credit Union, a stalwart member of the Fort Knox CORE Committee, and a long-time friend.

Under Bill's leadership, the Fort Knox Federal Credit Union has achieved impressive growth and has done much to help the local community. Bill has worked in the financial services industry for more than 30 years, and he has headed the Fort Knox Federal Credit Union since 1991. In that time, it has expanded from 4 branches primarily serving Hardin County to 14 branches across central Kentucky. Fort Knox Federal Credit Union was recently awarded the Department of the Army's Distinguished Service Award. It won this recognition in competition against all other on-post credit unions in the Nation.

If there is a cause that is near and dear to Bill's heart in addition to Fort Knox Federal, it is that of Fort Knox and the surrounding community. In

2011, under Bill's guidance, Fort Knox Federal sponsored a platoon deployed to Afghanistan. The staff shared messages of support and care packages with the soldiers to remind them of home and let them know that they remained in the thoughts and prayers of the local community. Bill and I have worked together for years trying to ensure that Fort Knox has what it needs to support its mission and the military personnel and their families who call the post home. Bill has been a member of the Fort Knox CORE Committee since 1993 and has served as president of the organization since January 2006.

Bill is also active in the local area, having served as a Radcliff Chamber of Commerce board member; president of the Association of the United States Army, Fort Knox chapter; the United Way Advisory Committee; the Radcliff Industrial Foundation Board; and Rotary International. He also visits Fort Knox Elementary School and reads to Mrs. Trimble's class every year.

Bill and his wife Rosie are completing their dream house in Florida where they may both enjoy the warm weather, but I know his heart will always remain in central Kentucky.

Mr. President, I ask my U.S. Senate colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. William J. Rissel for his successful career and thank him for his service to the community and to Fort Knox.

NORTH LAUREL HIGH SCHOOL
CHEERLEADER TEAM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to recognize a group of young ladies who have found great success in their athletic endeavors on the national and international level. The North Laurel High School cheerleaders have represented their county and the Commonwealth of Kentucky well with their hard work, skill, and success. On February 10, the North Laurel High School cheerleaders won both the World School and International Cup at UCA Nationals in Orlando, FL.

The cheerleading squad from North Laurel High School not only reclaimed the title of first place in World School at the UCA, Universal Cheerleaders Association, Nationals in Orlando, but they went on to become champions of the International Cup, beating out teams from Canada, Ecuador, and China. They also went on to win first place in the medium 2A Division representing the 13th Region at the 2013 KHSAA, Kentucky High School Athletic Association, Competitive Cheer State Championship held in Bowling Green, KY on February 23. Team members Autumn Asher, Madison Asher, Machenzie Burns, Raye Lynn Campbell, Taylor Crockett, Channing Ely, Emily Evans, Katlyn Helton, Malari Hoskins, Sara Kaminsky, Peyton Lankford, Katie Mays, Tara McClure, Aubree Oakley, Katelyn Sharp, MaKayla Vaughn, Mary Kate Whitfield, and Maddie Wood as well as